

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough review of the present application that is reflected in the Office Actions mailed August 1, 2006 and January 23, 2007. Applicants likewise appreciate the withdrawal of the previous rejections, and the indication that Claims 5-6 and 44-45 are directed to allowable subject matter. As discussed in more detail below, Applicants have amended the application to place it in condition for allowance.

I. The Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the recitations of Claim 5, and thus Claim 1, and Claims 2-4, 7, 9, 43-44 and 46 are now all directed to subject matter that has been indicated as allowable. Applicant has also rewritten Claim 6 into independent form, and thus Claim 6, and Claim 45 depending therefrom are now directed to subject matter that has been indicated as allowable. Claim 45 has been amended as suggested by the examiner to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

II. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 45 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to have proper antecedent basis for the recitation "fourth contact plug." As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended Claim 45 to depend from Claim 6, thereby obviating this rejection.

III. The Withdrawal of Claims 8 and 10-16

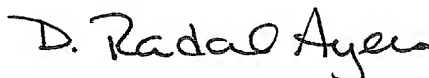
Claims 8 and 10-16 were not examined as being directed to a non-elected species, with no generic claim having been indicated as allowable. However, Claim 1 is a generic claim which, as amended herein, is directed to subject matter that has been indicated as allowable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully submit that reinstatement and allowance of Claims 8 and 10-16 as depending from an allowable generic claim.

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IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-16 and 43-46 are now all directed to subject matter that has been indicated as allowable, and therefore request entry of the present Amendment After Final and allowance of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

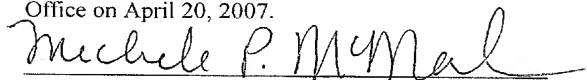


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 20, 2007.



Michele P. McMahan

Date of Signature: April 20, 2007